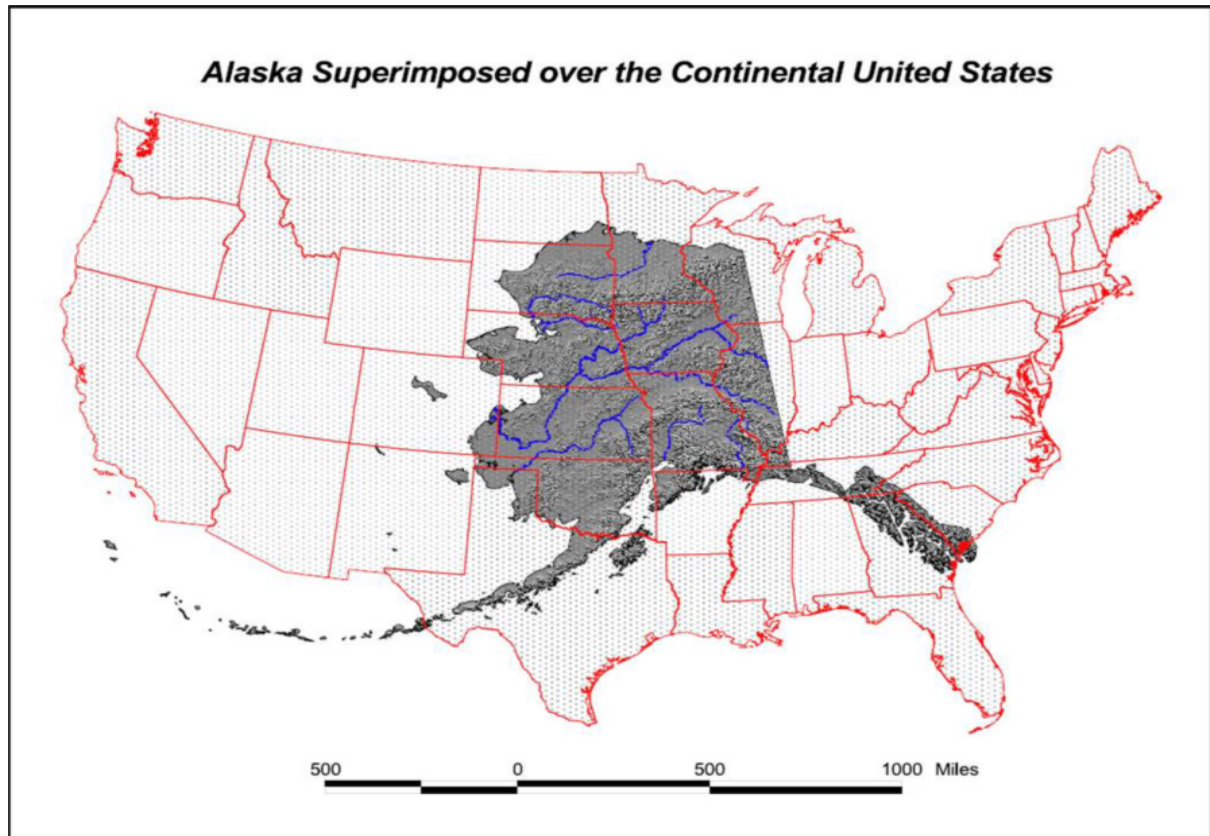


CVTC: Construction and Operating Challenges in Alaska

Alaska is the northernmost state in the United States and is home to some of the most extreme climate conditions found anywhere on the continent. It is the largest state in the U.S. and is larger than the next three largest states combined: Texas, California, and Montana.



Copper Valley Telecom (CVTC) is a telephone provider headquartered in Valdez, Alaska, a fishing and export town along the southern Alaskan coast. CVTC's service area covers the Valdez and Copper River Basin areas of Alaska.

CVTC operates in a diverse geographical region. Construction ranges from mountainous areas with dense underlying rock to forested regions of mud and substrate. Cats fitted with rock cutters are contracted to lay plant through solid rock.





Bulldozers fitted with Cable Reels are utilized to string plant through thick brush and mud.



Wild moose share their habitat with the local inhabitants, a testament to the natural wilderness in which CVTC operates. Winter temperatures can range between -15 to -23 degrees Fahrenheit



Snow falls year round in Valdez with a yearly average snowfall of 326 inches (27.17ft). Here is a residential home after a snowstorm in March, 2012.



Maintenance of communications equipment in extreme conditions requires specialized teams of individuals and gear. Every year the microwaves are covered in layers of ice and snow. When maintenance is required, the expense incurred to repair the equipment in subzero conditions can be tremendous.

